GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2806
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
EXPLOSION OF CNG CYLINDERS IN VEHICLES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CNG gas supplied by GAIL in Mumbai has led to explosions in some cars;

(b) the details of car explosion using CNG at Chembur, in North East Mumbai on March 1, 2001;

(c) whether safety experts of GAIL have enquired into this matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether the public have been made aware of the potential dangers of CNG being used in vehicles; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The explosion did not take place due to CNG Gas supplied. Three taxis were adjacent to each other at the CNG dispenser during refueling. The centre taxi was fitted with a standard, approved conversion kit from the engine to the cylinder. But the pressure cylinder fitted was not of an approved make, being constructed form steel pipe with Seam Welded ends. On refueling the pressure cylinder exploded killing four people(three on the spot and one later) and injuring six others.

(c) & (d) The enquiry was conducted by MGL. It confirmed that the explosion did not take place due to CNG gas suppliedbut on account of sub standard quality of cylinder fitted by the owner of the taxi.

(e) & (f) As already indicated at (a) above the explosion was not due to Compredssed Natural Gas. However MGL has issued safety and awareness notices in various newspapers which are in circulation in Mumbai. It has also introduced a logging system for checking vehicles and has taken measures to coordinate with transport authorities for inspection of the CNG kits installed in vehicles.